

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03835 192328Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07 OMB-01
/099 W

-----049954 210237Z /62

R 190601Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USOECN

USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, TU
SUBJ: FOREIGN OIL COMPANY PROBLEMS IN TURKEY

1. TURKISH MEDIA IN LAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN GIVING
INCREASED ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITY THAT FOREIGN EQUITY
(WHICH IS HELD BY MOBIL, SHELL, AND BP) IN ATAS
REFINERY MAY BE ON THE WAY OUT. WHILE WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING
DERMATIC PRESS CAMPAIGN TO PREPARE TURKISH PUBLIC FOR
THIS EVENTUALITY, WE FIND THE TREND TO BE OF INTEREST
IN VIEW OF APPROACHING DEADLINE IMPOSED ON MOBIL OIL
TO BRING ITS ATAS OPERATIONS TO FULL CAPACITY OR FACE
DIVESTITURE. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE TWO REFERENCES
TO THIS ISSUE IN YESTERDAY'S (MAY 17) MEDIA.

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2. TRT ANKARA RADIO ONE O'CLOCK NEWS CARRIED ITEM
REPORTING COMMENTS OF CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER OF
PETROLEUM ENGINEERS, REFIK UMIT, AT PRESS CONFERENCE SAME
MORNING TO EFFECT THAT, "BEGINNING WITH ATAS REFINERY
IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO NATIONALIZE ALL FOREIGN OIL
COMPANIES." HE WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT FOR-

EIGN OIL COMPANIES ARE BECOMING PROBLEMS FOR TURKEY DURING ITS MOST DIFFICULT DAYS. COMMENT: EMBASSY TALKED WITH UMIT BY TELEPHONE SAME DAY CONFIRMING THAT HE HAD IN FACT COMMENTED AS REPORTED WITH RESPECT TO NEED TO NATIONALIZE FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN TURKEY. HE DENIED SAYING THEY HAD "BECOME PROBLEM", HOWEVER. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT, AS CHAIRMAN OF A PROFESSIONLA ASSOCIATION, HE HAD LONG HELD VIEW THAT FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN TURKISH REFINERY OPERATIONS NOT NEEDED. END COMMENT

3. YENI ULUS, A SMALL CIRCULATION LEFTIST ORGAN, CARRIED ITEM ON SAME DAY STATING THAT ATAS, SINCE 1964 CYPRUS CRISIS, HAD "GONE AGAINST NATIONAL INTERESTS". STORY DESCRIBED ATAS AS A GREEAT OBSTACLE IN TURKEY'S QUEST FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND A SOLUTION TO ITS ENERGY PROBLEMS, AND ADVOCATED THAT IT BE NATIONALIZED WITHOUT DELAY.

4. COMMENT: WORD IS UNDOUBTEDLY GETTING AROUND IN PROFESSIONAL, JOURNALISTIC, AND PUBLIC SERVICE CIRCLES THAT THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND THE OIL COMPANIES ARE ON A VIRTUAL COLLISION COURSE. WE EXPECT THE OIL COMPANIES WILL FIND LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION AMONG THOSE GROUPS.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 19 may 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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